

**Hello Village Voice Readers,** the north wind certainly blows this week, we have been lucky to have no more than a flurry of snow, that had no intent of staying long, lets hope the snow misses us until much later in the year.

We are at War!!! I have been just told - No not with Christopher. The other half came in from the cold with a rather annoyed look on his face---I could see he was awaiting an "Oh Darling whatever was the matter." So, I did, with gusto--- maybe a bit too much gusto...as I was given the full S.P. as it were...I will give you the bridged version, as I do like my readers, and do not wish to send you all off to sleep. So, he had gone to 'tidy up' his shed, as he does most days and had found his beloved plastic handled screwdrivers had been a upcycled and gnawed into abstract sculptures. When I asked why he had done that ---I was informed quite abruptly that it was not him! It was the mice. Well, I thought, its only to be expected. We have built and now live in their ancestors' fields, they're cold and in need of shelter and just as Mary and Joseph did a month and quite a few years ago, a wooden shelter is better than nothing. If the hedges and bushes are to go, then they need to find food somewhere, and I guess if our furry little neighbours need food it's either the well-stocked birdfeed from the birdfeeders or some very colourful but I doubt tasty plastic tool kits ---This comment will now have a lot of men running to their sheds to checked that they're tool kits are gnaw free. While I sit here humming "I saw a mouse, where? There on the stairs, where in there stairs – right there, a little mouse with clogs on".... How many of you are now humming it?

This week we have had to say goodbye to yet another character of Iden. Who would have been looking through my weekly entries eagle-eyed, tutting and shaking his head to the spelling mistakes and misuse if punctuation – in my defence most of the time I'm usually spell checking while cooking the dinner, or there's a small boy hanging round my neck demanding my full attention at the wrong time. But I hope that he might have found some of the entries at least light-hearted and humorous. Of course, the man of which I speak of, is none other than Mr John Anthony Austin Harrison, who we were able to say our goodbyes to on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January. All Saints was full with over a hundred people who had clearly been touched by John's wonderful nature. Reverend Stella conducted the service, with Susannah at the organ playing some wonderful music and hymns that John would have fully agreed with. Dr Alan

Del Mar gave the Eulogy and filled in the spaces of John's life that some of us unfortunately did not know, showing how even at a young age he had the intelligence and determination to absorb as much information as he could, while also rebelling and attempting healthy debates, with everyone who accepted the challenge. Mary Ferretti read a poem, which showed the simple and traditionally British side of John. Paul Harrison, showed John's religious interest with a Bible reading. John's granddaughters, Marta and Alicja read extracts from their birthday cards that showed not only how much love he had for his granddaughters but also how he connected with them on a literacy level and loved to entertain them with his wordplay. Micheal Miller concluded with his heartfelt words of endearment towards his dear friend and how they're lives had crossed, as well as explaining how much John loved his Iden, his church and the people who lived here. From all these personal accounts, I don't think you could find a more well-rounded, passionate, caring, thoughtful and joyful individual in East Sussex. The service was rounded off with a rendition of "I'm walking backwards for Christmas" by Spike Milligan – which I'm sure was John's choice, clearly wanting to get the last laugh. Well done, Sir! His Epitaph "He liked butter and chunky Seville Orange Marmalade".

Iden Village Hall Lunch!! Come one - come all, bring friends, drag family, the person to the right of you –invite them too, don't know them? Well, here's your chance. The Iden Village Hall committee are hosting on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 12-3pm a Curry Lunch. For £7.50 you will be transported to the place, hundreds of miles away with a warm climate, and the occasional cool breeze that blows the sweet and exotic fragrant mix of flowers and spices from afar. With a choice of Chicken or Vegetable Malaysian Curry, accompanied by an equal amount of fresh rice, and a crisp poppadom. Drinks are an additional £1. There will also be a raffle, with a prize that's not to be missed. Christopher and I will see you there. Have a full lunch, saves having to cook dinner later...win win in my book.

Fully Packed! Wow, well the Natural Historical Society meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> was a fantastic success! Clearly there are a lot of 'Dino' enthusiasts among us. Colin Page gave an insightful talk on the prehistoric times of the East Sussex coastline with an amazing array of fossil specimens that had been washed up on our local shores. Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm we have a wonderful talk by James

Milton on “The Sussex Dolphin Project”. It’s amazing just how many different types of dolphins and porpoises there are swimming in the English Channel. James’ talk will take us through the process of identifying individuals, to help us increase our understanding of their behaviour and so to be able to trace the movements and track prey and predator species, in the hope to keep our local dolphin and porpoise population healthy and safe. I can see Christopher and myself equipped with binoculars spending days at Winchelsea beach, on the look out after this talk. Non members £4 each.

Great news!! Bingo is back at the Iden Bowls Club starting 19<sup>th</sup> January, open to all Iden residents and villages beyond. All are welcome! Doors open at 2 p.m. Eyes down 2.30p.m. Complimentary tea and biscuits during the interval. A warm friendly atmosphere is assured and cash prizes to be won. Remember this will be at the Bowl Club premises opposite the Bell Pub, entrance is left of the War Memorial.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February will be our 1<sup>st</sup> Indoor Bootfair of the year at the Village hall. Opens 2pm – 4pm. 50p entrance fee. Refreshments available. To book a table call 01797 280143. £7 per table, book in advance.

### **January and February Dates: -**

19<sup>th</sup> January Bowls Club Bingo, all welcome 2pm at the Bowls Club.

20<sup>th</sup> January Curry Lunch at the Village Hall. 12-3pm

25<sup>th</sup> January Bingo at the Village Hall. Doors open 2pm. Eyes down 2.30pm.

26<sup>th</sup> January Natural Historical Society at Iden Village Hall at 7.30pm

28<sup>th</sup> January Church service at All Saints Church at 10am.

29<sup>th</sup> January Pop In at Iden Village Hall 11am until 1pm

3<sup>rd</sup> February Indoor Bootfair in the Village Hall 2-4pm

6<sup>th</sup> February Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome.

12<sup>th</sup> February Iden WI at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Newcomers welcome.

Iden Village Hall is available to be hired for most events, call Teresa on 01797 280143.

If you have anything you'd like to add for next week. Contact Claire on [clairecarle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clairecarle@yahoo.co.uk) or 01797 280500 before the end of the weekend.

Keeping Iden Community Alive.